SUPREME COURT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SC 210218

IN RE HON. ALICE BRUNO

APRIL 12, 2022

ORDER

This court conducted a proceeding on April 5, 2022 related to its order to show cause why it should not commence disciplinary proceedings to either suspend or remove the Honorable Alice Bruno from her judicial office for potential violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Upon due consideration, the court has unanimously voted to commence such proceedings forthwith. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that:

- 1. Pursuant to Article XXV of the Amendments to the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, General Statutes Section 51-51j, and Rules 2.14, 2.15 and 2.16 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, this court shall commence an expedited investigation to determine whether there exist grounds for removal or suspension of Judge Bruno from her judicial office pursuant to General Statutes Section 51-51i (hereinafter, "Investigation"). Specifically, the purpose of the Investigation is to obtain information relevant to determine whether Judge Bruno's conduct in connection with her performance of, or failure to perform, judicial functions since her appointment as a Superior Court Judge in 2015 violates, inter alia, Rules 1.2 (Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary); 2.1 (Giving Precedence to the Duties of Judicial Office); and 2.5 (Competence, Diligence, and Cooperation) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Investigation shall be confidential.
- 2. Pursuant to General Statutes Section 51-51*o* (b), the court hereby appoints and authorizes Attorney Robert Devlin, Deputy Chief State's Attorney and Inspector General, as the court's investigator to conduct the Investigation.

- 3. Attorney Devlin and any designees selected by him to assist, are hereby permitted access to any and all medical records and other documents filed in this matter under seal with this court, and shall maintain the confidentiality of any such information. In addition, the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, all Connecticut judges, and all Judicial Branch employees, shall promptly and fully cooperate with the investigator and his designees in connection with the Investigation, and shall provide to them any records or other information upon request.
- 4. Pursuant to General Statutes Section 51-51o (a) and Rule 2.16 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Judge Bruno shall fully and promptly cooperate with the Investigation, including, but not limited to, any request by Attorney Devlin or his designee for an interview; any request for releases of information in the possession, custody or control of any third person; any request for production of any and all health records, judicial attendance records, records concerning her performance and disability claims, Judicial Selection Commission records, Judicial Review Council records, and Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities records, except those records protected by the attorney-client privilege. Judge Bruno's failure to cooperate with the Investigation in any respect will be deemed non-compliance with this order and shall subject her to further disciplinary proceedings. Based on the development of Attorney Devlin's Investigation, should he deem it necessary for Judge Bruno to submit to one or more independent medical evaluations, Attorney Devlin may seek an appropriate order from this court upon motion explaining the reasons why any such evaluations are necessary, together with the names and contact information of the health care professionals recommended by Attorney Devlin to conduct such evaluations. Any objection to any such motion shall be filed within five business days of the filing of a motion by Attorney Devlin.
- 5. The findings of the Investigation shall be submitted to this court and to Judge Bruno by first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, certified, return receipt requested within three business days of its conclusion. The findings will remain confidential pending further order of the court.
- 6. Upon receipt of the findings of the Investigation, this court shall issue further orders as appropriate.

7. Nothing in this order should be deemed to preclude Attorney Devlin from additionally attempting to find alternative resolutions to the issues underlying this Investigation with Judge Bruno and her counsel, provided those efforts, if any, shall not delay, hinder or impede the expeditious resolution of the Investigation.

By the Court,

_____/s/ Carl D. Cicchetti Chief Clerk

Notice sent: April 12, 2022

Counsel of Record

Attorney Robert J. Devlin, Jr., Deputy Chief State's Attorney and Inspector General, State of Connecticut, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of the Inspector General, P.O. Box 460, Cheshire, CT 06410

Hon. Alice Bruno, 179 Vine Street, New Britain, CT 06052